GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4191
ANSWERED ON:25.08.2004
STRENGTHENING TIES WITH JAPAN
Mehta Shri Bhubneshwar Prasad;Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had a meeting with his Japanese counterpart recently;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether India and Japan have agreed to support each other for permanent seat in UNSC as reported in the `Hindu` dated August 13, 2004;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether both countries have agreed to set up a joint working groups to counter terrorism and enhance enonomic cooperation; and

(f) if so, the details and benefits likely to be accrued to India by the setting up of the said working groups?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. Foreign Minister of Japan, Ms. Yoriko Kawaguchi visited India from August 12-14 2004 at the invitation of External Affairs Minister of India. The two Ministers had wide-ranging and productive discussions on bilateral, multilateral and global issues of mutual concern. Main focus of their discussions was on further strengthening India-Japan `Global Partnership`; broadening and deepening of bilateral relations; cooperating with each other in meeting global challenges and further efforts to enhance bilateral economic relations.

(c) & (d) Yes Sir. Based on the firmly shared recognition that both countries are legitimate candidates for the permanent membership of the Security Council, Japan and India have agreed to support each other`s candidature, and to make utmost efforts and closely work together towards realising the reform of the Security Council. The two countries have agreed to institute a dialogue on UN reforms for exchange of views and coordination of positions.

(e) & (f) Yes Sir. It has also been agreed to set up a Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism. This will promote effective cooperation between the two countries on this import matter.